

**Senate File 2155 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2155

BY HOGG

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the appropriate uses of returning dropout  
2 and dropout prevention program funding.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.41, Code 2011, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **257.41 Funding for programs for returning dropouts and**  
4 **dropout prevention.**

5 1. Budget. The budget of an approved program for returning  
6 dropouts and dropout prevention for a school district, after  
7 subtracting funds received from other sources for that purpose,  
8 shall be funded annually on a basis of one-fourth or more  
9 from the district cost of the school district and up to  
10 three-fourths by an increase in allowable growth as defined in  
11 section 257.8. Annually, the department of management shall  
12 establish a modified allowable growth for each such school  
13 district equal to the difference between the approved budget  
14 for the program for returning dropouts and dropout prevention  
15 for that district and the sum of the amount funded from the  
16 district cost of the school district plus funds received from  
17 other sources.

18 2. Appropriate uses of funding. Appropriate uses of the  
19 returning dropout and dropout prevention program funding  
20 include but are not limited to the following:

21 a. Salary and benefits for instructional staff,  
22 instructional support staff, and school-based youth services  
23 staff who are working with students who are participating  
24 in dropout prevention programs, alternative programs, and  
25 alternative schools, in a traditional or alternative setting,  
26 if the staff person's time is dedicated to working with  
27 returning dropouts or students who are deemed, at any time  
28 during the school year, to be at risk of dropping out, in  
29 order to provide services beyond those which are provided by  
30 the school district to students who are not identified as at  
31 risk of dropping out. However, if the staff person works  
32 part-time with students who are participating in returning  
33 dropout and dropout prevention programs, alternative programs,  
34 and alternative schools and has another unrelated staff  
35 assignment, only the portion of the staff person's time that

1 is related to the returning dropout and dropout prevention  
2 program, alternative program, or alternative school may be  
3 charged to the program. For purposes of this paragraph, if  
4 an alternative setting is necessary to provide for a program  
5 which is offered at a location off school grounds and which  
6 is intended to serve student needs by improving relationships  
7 and connections to school, decreasing truancy and tardiness,  
8 providing opportunities for course credit recovery, or helping  
9 students identified as at risk of dropping out to accelerate  
10 through multiple grade levels of achievement within a shortened  
11 time frame, the tuition costs for a student identified as at  
12 risk of dropping out shall be considered an appropriate use of  
13 the returning dropout and dropout prevention program funding.

14 b. Professional development for all teachers and staff  
15 working with at-risk students and programs involving dropout  
16 prevention strategies.

17 c. Research-based resources, materials, software, supplies,  
18 and purchased services that meet all of the following criteria:

19 (1) Meet the needs of kindergarten through grade twelve  
20 students identified as at risk of dropping out and of returning  
21 dropouts.

22 (2) Are beyond those provided by the regular school program.

23 (3) Are necessary to provide the services listed in the  
24 school district's dropout prevention plan.

25 (4) Will remain with the kindergarten through grade twelve  
26 returning dropout and dropout prevention program.

27 d. Up to five percent of the total budgeted amount received  
28 pursuant to subsection 1 may be used for purposes of providing  
29 district-wide or building-wide returning dropout and dropout  
30 prevention programming targeted to students who are not deemed  
31 at risk of dropping out.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill specifies the appropriate uses of the returning  
34 dropout and dropout prevention program funding for school  
35 districts. The bill also permits up to 5 percent of the total

1 budgeted amount received by a school district for programs  
2 for returning dropouts and dropout prevention to be used for  
3 purposes of providing district-wide or building-wide returning  
4 dropout and dropout prevention programming targeted to students  
5 who are not deemed at risk of dropping out, and provides  
6 that tuition for a program offered off school grounds is an  
7 appropriate use.

8 Appropriate uses of funding as specified by the department  
9 of education's current administrative rules include salary  
10 and benefits for teachers and guidance counselors. The  
11 bill includes these items and adds instructional staff,  
12 instructional support staff, and school-based youth services  
13 staff. The bill also adds that students may be deemed, at  
14 any time during the school year, to be at risk of dropping  
15 out, which is a qualification for determining the portion of  
16 staff time, and resulting payment of salary and benefits from  
17 program funds, that is dedicated to and related to the dropout  
18 prevention program.

19 The bill also provides that if an alternative setting is  
20 necessary to provide for a program which is offered at a  
21 location off school grounds and which is intended to serve  
22 student needs by improving relationships and connections  
23 to school, decreasing truancy and tardiness, providing  
24 opportunities for course credit recovery, or helping students  
25 identified as at risk of dropping out to accelerate through  
26 multiple grade levels of achievement within a shortened time  
27 frame, the tuition costs for a student identified as at risk of  
28 dropping out shall be considered an appropriate use of program  
29 funding.

30 Both the bill and the current administrative rules  
31 provide that the following are appropriate uses of funding:  
32 professional development for all teachers and staff working  
33 with at-risk students and programs involving dropout prevention  
34 strategies; and research-based resources, materials, software,  
35 supplies, and purchased services that meet specified criteria.